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BELGIUM.

Report from Antwerp.

ANTWERP, May 8, 1900.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith inclosed weekly abstract of bills of health issued during the week ended May 5, 1900.

Seven vessels cleared for ports in the United States carrying cargo. Steamship *Aragonia* sailed for Philadelphia on the 3d instant with 219 steerage passengers and on the 5th instant the steamship *Westernland* cleared for New York with 987 steerage and 70 cabin passengers.

There was no evidence of quarantinable diseases on board of either ship.

Respectfully,

E. K. SPRAGUE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

BRAZIL.

Reappearance of plague at Rio de Janeiro.

On May 19 the following cablegram was received:

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 19, 1900.

Since April 8 there have been 19 cases of plague at Rio de Janeiro. Since Wednesday, 4. The cases can not be traced to foci already located. Believe the facts are being suppressed. Private rumors exaggerate. Probably the State health authorities will quarantine. This will be decided within four days.

HABELBURG.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

The State and national quarantine officers on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts were promptly notified of the existence of plague at Rio de Janeiro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 22, 1900.

Plague slowly increasing. Epidemic rats. Diagnosis confirmed by bacteriological examination. By order of the President quarantine has been declared against Rio de Janeiro.

HABELBURG.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

To this the following answer was sent:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 22, 1900.

As soon as you think plague is sufficiently widespread in Rio de Janeiro to endanger cargoes notify the Bureau by wire, and if you feel any doubt as to merchandise or rat infection of any vessel leaving, make note to that effect on bill of health. Acknowledge receipt.

HABELBURG,
Rio de Janeiro.

WYMAN.

[Reply.]

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, May 23, 1900.

Telegram received. Will do as requested.

W. HABELBURG.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.